



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

June 18, 2013

Mr. Charles P. Nicholson
NEPA Compliance Manager
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Subject: EPA NEPA Review Comments on TVA's FEIS for "Dam Safety Modifications at Cherokee, Fort Loudon, Tellico and Watts Bar Dams"; CEQ #20130147

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the subject Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. It is our understanding that TVA proposes to implement permanent solutions to minimize the potential effects of the Probably Maximum Flood (PMF) event at the Cherokee, Fort Loudon, Tellico, and Watts Bar Dams.

EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this proposed action and provided comments to TVA in a letter dated November 16, 2012. In our comments on the DEIS we expressed support for the preferred alternative and made several recommendations regarding better defining engineering constraints, better defining PMF events, providing clarification regarding restricted access to recreation areas during construction, addressing potential environmental impacts from staging and borrow areas, and adding cost information for all project alternatives. EPA appreciates TVA's efforts to respond to our comments and recommendations on the DEIS. Based on our review of TVA's responses to our comments, we have no additional recommendations. EPA appreciates TVA's efforts to develop a clear and concise EIS that adequately discloses impacts and associated mitigations for several alternatives along with the agency preferred alternative. Lastly, we support TVA's selection of the **Alternative B (preferred): Permanent Modifications of Dam Structures: Concrete Floodwalls and Earthen Embankments**.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this FEIS. Should TVA have questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact Dan Holliman of my staff at 404-562-9531 or holliman.daniel@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Mueller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heinz J. Mueller
Chief, NEPA Program Office
Office of Environmental Accountability